

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 JUSE-00 SCA-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8282

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3855

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION BILL COMMENTS TO DEPUTIES

REF: STATE 215168

1. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON NEW EXTRADITION BILL IN
REFTEL WERE EXPLAINED ORALLY TO CHIEF O PLN'S ASSEMBLY
FRACTION, SALAZAR NAVARETTE, AND COPY OF NOTES LEFT WITH

HIM. SALAZAR NAVARETTE CLEARLY DID NOT UNDERSTAND
HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION, SAID HE WOULD SEE THAT THEY
WERE CONSIDERED, AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THEY DID NOT
APPEAR TO BE TOO SERITOS.

2. SALAZAR NAVARETTE WENT ON TO REPEAT HIS REQUEST MADE
TO EMBOFF LAST WEEK WHEN HE ASKED THAT EMBASSY SUGGEST
TO RODOLFO PIZA, THE DEPUTY LEADING THE OPPOSITION
CHALLENGE TO THE 1974 EXTRADITION LAW, THAT THE NEW BILL
WAS A GOOD ONE AND THAT IT DESERVED RAPID LEGIALATIVE
APPROVAL. WHEN EMBOFF TOLD SALAZAR NAVARETTE THAT
SUCH A REQUEST FROM HIM WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY DELICATE IN ANY
CASE, AND WOULD NOW BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT WITHOUT
QUALIFICATION IN VIEW OF OUR DEMONSTRATED CONCERNS ABOUT THE BILL,
AND ASKED HIM IF HE WISHED THESE CONCERNS TO BE
RELATED TO PIZA. SALAZAR REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY, REPEATING
THAT HE EXPECTED THAT OUR CONCERNS COULD BE WORKED OUT.

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3. FOLLOWING THIS CONVERSATION WITH SALAZAR NAVARETTE,

EMBOFF MET WITH PIZA AND ORALLY RELAYED THE ESSENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS TO HIM, WITHOUT LEAVING NOTES. PIZA PULLED OUT HIS COPY OF THE DRAFT BILL AND PROCEEDED TO MARK UP HIS BILL IN SOME REPEAT SOME OF THOSE AREAS OF OUR CONCERN. PIZA POINTED OUT THAT OUR CONCERNS ABOUT ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH E, PROBABLY COULD NOT BE TAKEN GREATLY INTO CONSIDERATION AS HE SAID THIS IS A HIGHLY STANDARD KIND OF REQUIREMENT FOR PROOF IN EXTRADITION CASES; REGARDING ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH F, HE SHARPENED UP HIS LANGUAGE CONSIDERABLY; AND IN ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH G, ELIMINATED THE REFERENCE TO THE 2#2YEAR IMPRISONMENT DISQUALIFICATION FOR EXTRADITION.

4. FIRST DEBATE WAS EXPECTED ON OCTOBER 2, BUT ACCORDING TO LATEST PRESS REPORTS (OCTOBER 4), THE BILL HAS STILL NOT COME TO THE FLOOR FOR DEBATE. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT GIVEN OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE DRAFT, ANOTHER VERSION OF THE BILL IS BEING PREPARED AND POLITICAL CONSENSUS ARRIVED AT BEFORE IT IS PLACED ON THE AGENDA. IN ANY CASE, IT IS EXPECTED IMMINENTLY AND WILL PROBABLY QUICKLY PASS THROUGH THE NECESSARY THREE DEBATES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, EXTRADITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO03855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740282-0673
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741072/aaaacjfi.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 215168
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXTRADITION BILL COMMENTS TO DEPUTIES
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005